

# STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## LESSON 16 - JOHN CHAPTER 15

### ASSIGNMENT

READ John chapter 15.

MEMORIZE John 15:5,

*"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

### KEY WORDS

The key words in this chapter are: **abide, fruit, love, hate.**

### OUTLINE OF JOHN CHAPTER 15

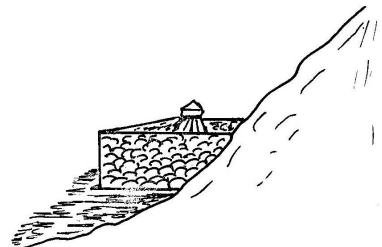
- A. The Christian and Jesus, John 15:1-17.
  - 1. God takes care of the vineyard, John 15:1.
  - 2. The branches of the vine, John 15:2,6.
  - 3. The branches and the vine, John 15:4-15.
  - 4. Jesus chose the branches, John 15:16.
  
- B. The Christian and the world, John 15:18-25.
  - 1. The world hates the Christians.
  - 2. The people of the world sin when they hate God.
  
- C. The Christian and the Holy Spirit, John 15:26,27.
  - 1. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter.
  - 2. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.
  - 3. The Holy Spirit tells of Jesus.
  - 4. The disciples tell about Jesus.

### LOOKING AT JOHN CHAPTER 15

Let us first see what a vine is. Vines are planted in a garden called a vineyard.

READ Isaiah 5:1,2.

This is what a man did when he made a vineyard:



- 1) He put a fence around it.
- 2) He took the stones out of the garden.
- 3) He planted good vines.
- 4) He built a tower in the middle of the vineyard.
- 5) He made a winepress.

Vineyards were often planted on the sides of hills. There had to be a fence around the vineyard to protect it from foxes and thieves. A man watched from the tower.

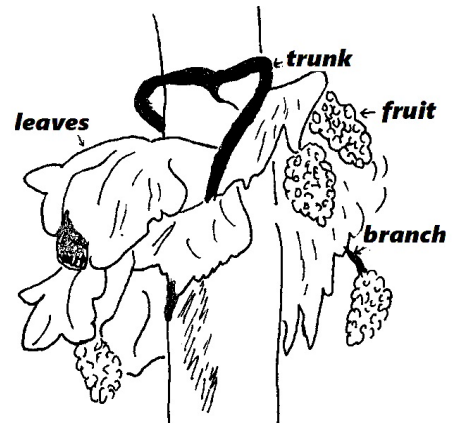


In fall the people picked the ripe grapes. Some grapes were made into juice. Some grapes were dried to make raisins. It was a happy time.

Now let us look at the vine itself. The whole plant is called a vine. The main stem is called the trunk.

Look at the picture. Find the following:

- 1) the trunk,
- 2) the branches,
- 3) the leaves,
- 4) the fruit.



God said Israel was like a vineyard, Isaiah 5:7. Israel did not do what God wanted them to do. They did not give fruit. In John 15, Jesus says He is the true vine.

**A. The Christian and Jesus, John 15:1-17.**

**1. God takes care of the vineyard, John 15:1.**

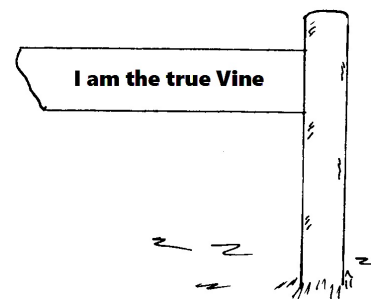
The man who takes care of a vineyard is called a husbandman or vinedresser. This man kept the vineyard clean. He weeded the vineyard. He cut off the bad and dry branches. He cut back the good branches to make them bear fruit. The man watched for animals who tried to come into the vineyard.

Jesus said, (John 15:1)

*"I am the true vine."*

Who takes care of this vine? John 15:1

God, the Father, looks after the vine. He watches so



that no one will hurt the vine and the branches.

## 2. The branches of the vine, John 15:2,6.

The followers of Jesus are the branches. We call these followers Christians today.

There are two kinds of branches. These branches are:

- 1) those who bear
- 2) those who do fruit.

Often we pick berries in the fall. We go into the bush and look for berry bushes. When we come to a berry bush, we first look at it. Sometimes the bush has only leaves. There are no berries. We leave this bush. We say, "The bush is no good - it has no fruit."

When we come to a bush with fruit, we stop. We pick the fruit. We say it is a good bush.

Sometimes we come to a bush with much fruit. We call our friends, "Come and help us. This is a good bush." We also may say, "This is a good bush. Let us come back to it next year."

### 1) Branch without fruit.

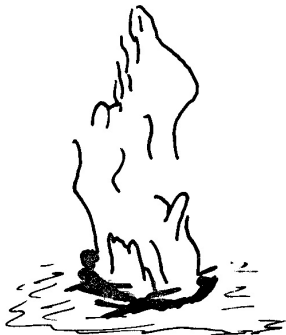
What does God do with the branch which does not bear fruit?

John 15:2

He throws it away, verse 6. What happens to the branch?



John 15:6



When the branch is dry, people pick it up and it. This branch will not be used again.

One time two boys were killed. Later their sister said, "God knew my brothers would not do anything more for God, so He took them." They were like branches that would not bear any fruit. God took them away.

This makes us think. We should not be a branch without

fruit.

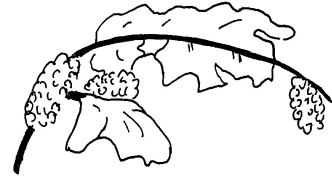
## 2) **Branch with fruit.**

What does God do with a branch which has some fruit on it?

John 15:2

The New Life Testament says,

*“ . . . He cuts it back so it will give more fruit.”* John 15:2.

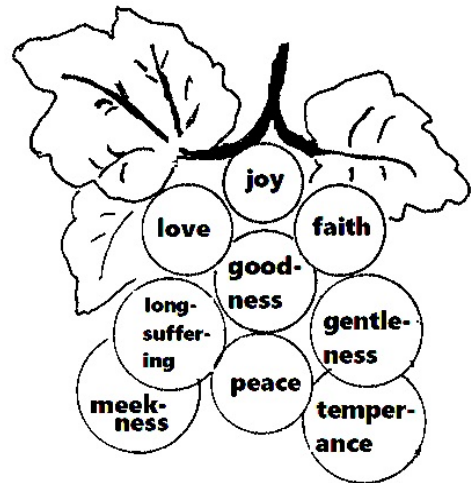


The writer lived in the Eastern United States. His family had grape vines in their yard. The first year they lived there the vines had lots of leaves but only a few sour grapes. The grape vines had not been taken care of for a long time. In the fall of the year, the writer's dad told him, “Cut back the branches on the vine.” When he finished there was not very much left to the vine. However, in the spring new buds came and new branches came. That summer they had more grapes. They were good grapes. The coming fall the writer cut even more branches back. The next summer they had lots of grapes.

God does something like this to each of us. God cuts away the things in our lives that keep the fruit from coming. The fruit is seen in the way we think. It is also seen in the way we act toward other people.

This fruit is called the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22.

What is the fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22



Our lives must be clean to bear this kind of fruit. Our lives are made clean by the Word of God. God wants us to live clean lives. God wants us to have fruit in our lives. When we let sin come into our lives, there is not so much fruit. God will punish us to make us see the sin, Hebrews 12:6-11. He will do this because He loves us. When we confess the sin we have done, God forgives it. (1 John 1:9).

It hurts when a branch is cut back. Punishment from God hurts too. But what do

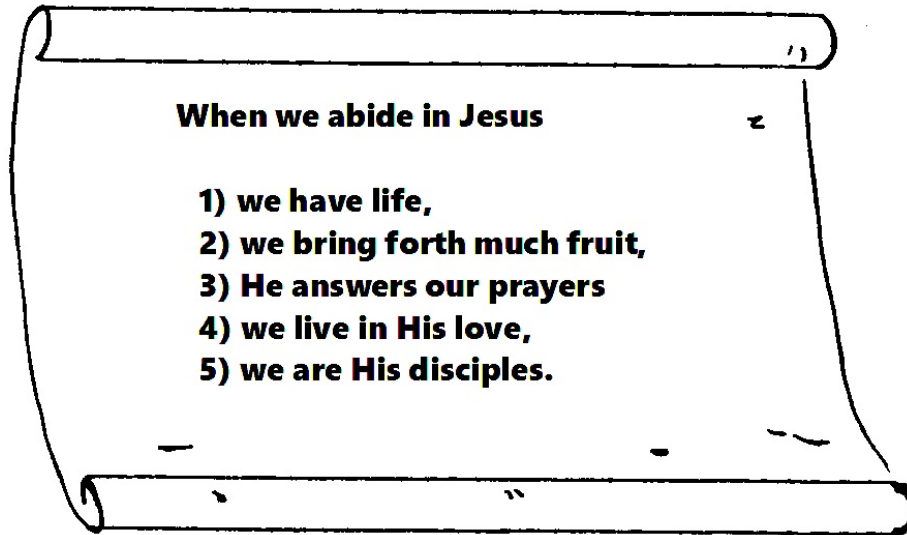
we get from it in the end?

Hebrews 12:11 The

The New Life Testament says it this way,

*“ . . . It gives us the peace of being right with God.”*

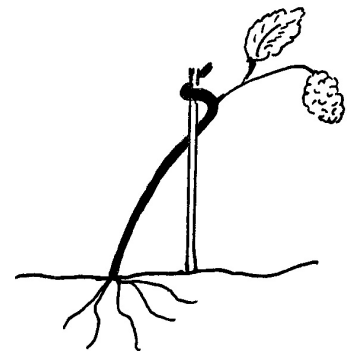
### 3. The branches and the vine, John 15:4-8.



1) When we abide in Jesus we have life. The vine gives life to the branches. The branches will die if they do not get this life. The life of the vine goes through the branches to bring forth fruit.

Jesus gives spiritual life to His followers. The life of Jesus goes through His followers to bear fruit.

The King James version of the Bible uses the word “abide.” To abide means to be fastened to Jesus Christ. It also means to rest by faith in Jesus Christ. It is like a branch on a tree. We are a part of Jesus Christ. It means to take food and strength from Jesus Christ. If we abide in Jesus Christ, we have life. If we do not abide in Jesus Christ, we cannot live the Christian life, John 15:4.



A branch has to abide (stay) in the vine to live. A branch has to abide in the vine to bear fruit.

In verse 5 Jesus said,

“ . . . *without* . . . *ye can do* . . . ”

We have to stay in Jesus to live. We have to stay in Jesus to bear fruit.

- 2) When we abide in Jesus we will bring forth fruit, John 15:5.

What is the fruit God wants us to have? Galatians 5:22

When this fruit is in our lives, we will help others to want to come to Jesus.

Who is honored (glorified) when we bear much fruit? John 15:8

- 3) When we abide in Jesus He will answer our prayers, John 15:7.

When we abide in Jesus we have fellowship with Him. We talk to him often. Because we have fellowship, we will ask for the things that please Him. He promises answers to our prayers.

- 4) When we obey Jesus, we live in His love, John 15:10. We all want to be loved.

A boy said to the writer, “Nobody loves me.” The writer said, “I love you.” The boy answered, “I know you love me, but nobody else loves me.” Four weeks later he took his own life. Jesus loves us. He wants us to live in His love.

When a boy disobeys his mother, he does not enjoy the love of his mother. His mother still loves him, but he is not happy in his mother's love. Then the boy goes to mother and says, “Mother, I am sorry.” The mother forgives him. He is happy in the love of his mother.

When we obey Jesus, we are happy in His love. We have joy. This joy will remain with us.

This joy will be abundant in us, John 15:11.

To obey Jesus we must know what He wants us to do. The Word of God tells us what God wants us to do.

What is the commandment of Jesus? John 15:12

How much did Jesus love us? John 15:13

There is no greater love than to die for a friend. When did Jesus die for us?

Romans 5:8

There is no greater love than the love of Jesus.

5) When we obey Jesus we are His \_\_\_\_\_, John  
15:14,15.

In John 13:13, Jesus said He is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples.

They were His servants.

In John 13:33, Jesus called the disciples \_\_\_\_\_.

He spoke to them as a Father spoke to his children.

In John 15:14, He called the disciples His \_\_\_\_\_.

He spoke to them as His friends. He told them His plans.

When we obey Jesus we are His \_\_\_\_\_, John 15:14.

God has given us the Bible. His plans are written in the Bible. His promises are in the Bible.

#### **4. Jesus chose the branches, John 15:16.**

What does Isaiah 53:6 say?

*“All*

*”*

We all went our own way. We sinned. What did God do? Isaiah 53:6. He put all

our sin on Jesus. Jesus paid for all our sin through His death. Jesus chose to die for us.

Jesus died for us while we were \_\_\_\_\_, Romans 5:8.

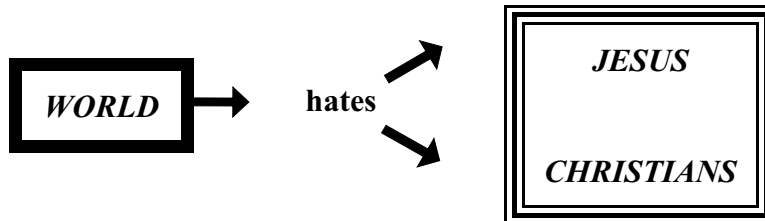
When we did not love Him, He loved us. Jesus chose to love us. Jesus chose us.

Jesus has ordained us. This means He has set us apart. He has set us apart for three things. These are:

- 1) that we should bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ . John 15:16.
- 2) that our fruit should \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 3) that what we ask the Father in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ He it to us.

The love of Jesus is great.

### **B. The Christian and the world, John 15:18-25.**



Jesus told the disciples about love and joy. But, not everyone would love the followers of Jesus.

Who would not love the followers of Jesus? John 15:19 \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus says the world would \_\_\_\_\_ the Christians.

When this verse talks about “the world” it is not talking about trees, flowers, lakes or rivers. It talks about the sinful people and the sinful things they do.

#### **1. The people of the world hate the Christians.**

1) The people of the world hate the Christians because the Christians are not of the world. The Christians do not do the sinful things that the world does. This causes the people of the world to see their own sin. They do not want to repent. The people of the world cannot understand the Christians. Because they do



not understand the Christians, they think the Christians are strange. They are mean to Christians.

The people of the world hated Jesus. What did they do to Jesus?

John 6:41: They \_\_\_\_\_ at Jesus.

John 6:66: They walked \_\_\_\_\_ more with \_\_\_\_\_.

John 7:20: They said “\_\_\_\_\_.”

John 7:32: They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

John 8:59: They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

John 11:53: They made plans to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

John 19:6: They begged to have Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

This is what the people of the world did to Jesus.

Can Christians expect this to be done to them?

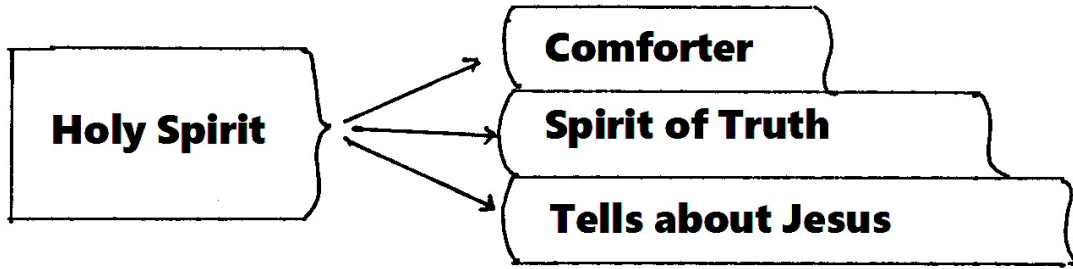
- 2) Because the people of the world do not know God, they hate the Christians, John 15:21.

## 2. The people of the world sin when they hate God because:

- 1) Jesus came into the world. He told the people what God was like, John 1:18. He told them what was right and what was sin. Jesus asked the people to turn from their sin. The people of the world have a chance to turn from their sin and turn to God.
- 2) Jesus did many miracles to show the people that He was and is God, John 15:24. Yet, they hated Jesus and God. They did not want to turn from their sin.
- 3) The people of Palestine saw Jesus with their own eyes. They touched Him. They heard the voice of Jesus, 1 John 1:3. They had no reason to hate Jesus, yet they did.

Jesus said, “. . . *They* \_\_\_\_\_ *me* \_\_\_\_\_ *a* \_\_\_\_\_” John 15:25.

C. The Christian and the Holy Spirit, John 15:26,27.



1. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, John 15:26.

The people of the world would hate the followers of Jesus without a reason. They would persecute the followers of Jesus. These things would lead to sorrow and hard times. But Jesus said,

*“When the \_\_\_\_\_ is come.”*

He would comfort them in sorrow and hard times. This was good news.

Who would send the Comforter? John 15:26

From whom would the Holy Spirit come? John 15:26 From the

2. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

What is another name given to the Comforter? John 15:26 the

The world has a spirit of hatred and lying.

3. The Holy Spirit would tell about Jesus.

What would be the work of the Holy Spirit? John 16:26 to \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

To testify means to tell what you know about something. The Holy Spirit was to tell what He knew about Jesus.

Who else would tell about Jesus? John 15:27 the

They were to witness of Jesus. To witness means to tell what you have heard and seen. The disciples had seen everything Jesus did. They had followed Him.

## IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

Let us look at some of the important things together.

1. The vineyard.

Who takes care of the vineyard in this chapter?

Who is the true vine?

Who are the branches?

2. There are two kinds of branches:

Those who bear

Those who do fruit.

The branches which do not bear fruit are away.

The branches which bear fruit are cut

3. The branches and the vine.

1) When we abide in Jesus we have

2) When we abide in Jesus we will bring forth

3) When we abide in Jesus, He will answer our

4) When we obey Jesus, we live in His

5) When we obey Jesus, we are His

4. Who chose the branches?

5. The world the Christians because:

1) the Christians are of the world.

2) the world does not

6. The people of the world sin when they hate God because:

1) came into the world.

- 2) Jesus did many \_\_\_\_\_ to show the people that He was and is God.
- 3) The people in Palestine saw \_\_\_\_\_ with their own eyes.
7. The Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The Holy Spirit tells about \_\_\_\_\_ .

## WORDS TO LEARN

1. abide - to live with or in; to be fastened to as a branch to a tree.
2. chasten - to punish a person to teach him not to do wrong.
3. fruit - something growing which can be used for food. Example - the berries on a plant, or apples on a tree.
4. longsuffering - not giving up.
5. meekness - being gentle.
6. ordain - to set apart for a special work.
7. persecute - to make things hard for a person.
8. temperance - being the boss over our own desires.
9. testify - to tell what you know.
10. vine - a climbing plant.
11. vinedresser - husbandman - the man who takes care of a vineyard.
12. vineyard - a grape garden.
13. winepress- a place where the juice is pressed out of the grapes.

## Lesson 16 - Review

### Fill in the blanks.

1. When a man builds a vineyard,
  - 1) he puts a \_\_\_\_\_ around it,
  - 2) he builds a \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the vineyard.
  - 3) he plants good \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 4) he makes a \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Who takes care of a vineyard? \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ . (Chapter 15.)

4. Vines have two kinds of branches:
  - 1) those that do not
  - 2) those that
5. A branch which does not have fruit is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
away.
6. A branch which has fruit is \_\_\_\_\_ back so it bears more \_\_\_\_\_
7. We learned about nine fruits of the Spirit. Name four of these.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_
8. When we abide in Jesus
  - 1) we have \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) we bring forth \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) He answers our \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) we live in His \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) we are His \_\_\_\_\_
9. The world \_\_\_\_\_ the Christians.
10. The Holy Spirit is called the \_\_\_\_\_  
He also is called the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
He tells about \_\_\_\_\_

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